



The Hour

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HOOR URGES INVESTIGATION OF GENEROSO POPE

Spokesman for Mussolini Has Failed to Register With State
Department; Maintains Powerful Connections in U. S.

The Hour urges that the U. S. Department of State immediately investigate the fascist activities and connections of Generoso Pope, and the failure of this prominent New York contractor to register with the Department as an agent of a foreign government, in compliance with Federal regulations.

For years Mr. Pope has been pleading the cause of the Italian Fascist Government and has been acting as a propagandist for Mussolini. He continues to promote fascist interests in this country with seeming impunity. Lately his Italian-language newspapers, Il Progresso Italo-Americano and Il Corriere d'Italia, have undergone certain subtle "pro-democratic" modifications, perhaps because Mr. Pope feels a patriotic aspect is at present desirable. But his love for Il Duce and his support to Italian Fascism are undiminished. That was recently illustrated by his newspapers' handling of the speech delivered by President Roosevelt on May 27. Passages referring to a conflict between fascism and Christianity were deleted from the text which appeared in Mr. Pope's publications; sections denouncing Fifth Column activity in America suffered a similar fate at the hands of Mr. Pope's censors.

Generoso Pope on Defensive

On May 6, in a signed editorial featured in both his papers, Mr. Pope indignantly declared, "There are still some half-baked snoopers intent on rummaging through old newspapers and old photographs to try to prove my anti-Americanism because of my affection for Italy, my respect for the government which the Italians have chosen and my friendship for the diplomatic and consular representatives of Italy in the United States."

Ordinarily Mr. Pope tries to be less on the defensive, but in this case he was faced with a particularly trying situation. Friday magazine had unearthed and published a photograph taken in Rome in 1937, in which Generoso Pope is seen giving the fascist salute before a monument erected by Mussolini; in the picture he is flanked by high officials of the Fascist Party, among whom are Count Ignazio Thaon de Revel, former head of the Fascist League of North America, and Commendatore Piero Parini, General of the Fascist Militia and director of the Fascist Party abroad. The photograph was reprinted by other publications. Mr. Pope felt compelled to comment. He wrote a couple of lame evasive editorials.

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Further embarrassment for Mr. Pope came when the Mazzini Society of New York City recently asked the Department of Justice to investigate the relations between Generoso Pope's newspapers and the propaganda division of the Italian Government. In a letter to Attorney-General Robert H. Jackson, the Society stated:

"We should like to draw your attention to the fact that the leading executives and editorial writers on the Pope newspapers are members of the Italian Fascist party. This information has in many cases been furnished by themselves to the 'Italian American Who's Who' and 'Italiani d'America'. The Mazzini Society charges that the Pope newspapers are among the main channels through which Fascist propaganda is spread in the United States; and that many members of the news and editorial staffs ... exert an influence on an important foreign language group in this country which is inimical to the interests of the United States and the preservation of our national unity."

Generoso Pope's Aid to Fascism

The Hour has repeatedly exposed the fascist activities of Generoso Pope. We have pointed out that his newspapers are regarded as official Italian publications by the Italian Government (Italian laws forbid Italian subjects to work as correspondents of foreign papers, yet the Rome office of Mr. Pope's papers is staffed with Italian subjects); that editorials written in Italy under the guidance of the Fascist Ministry of Propaganda appear intact in Il Progresso Italo-Americano and Il Corriere d'Italia; and that news dispatches are cabled from Italy to these papers at reduced rates. We disclosed that members of Mr. Pope's editorial staffs pledged full support to the policies of Il Grido della Stirpe, violently anti-Semitic weekly published by the jailbird Domenico Trombetta, which until recently carried the subtitle, "Weekly of Fascist Propaganda." We revealed that Mr. Pope was one of the chief promoters in the United States of the campaign run by the Federation of Italian War Veterans to collect funds for the benefit of Opere Assistenziali, official Fascist welfare agency of the Italian Government. The U. S. State Department revoked the Federation's license to raise money, because of the organization's intimate connections with the Italian Government.

Publisher Pope has not always been so cautious as he is today about openly expressing deep affection for Il Duce and the Fascist Cause. Until fairly recently his newspapers quoted him as making such statements as:

"Mr. Consul General, my friends from Puglia -- First of all I want you to cry with me: 'Down with all enemies of our country!' We can be sure that, under the guidance of our Leader, Italy will be victorious and tomorrow will be greater and more feared. When Italy can boast of such sons as you, then victory is ours! Long live Italy! Long live the King! Long live Mussolini!"

"Thanks from the bottom of my heart to this magnificent crowd ... gathered in Fascist-like unity to laud far-away Italy whose marvelous resistance fills us with pride and intensifies our faith



in the growing destiny of our race." (Printed alongside this statement was a photograph of Generoso Pope handing a check for \$100,000 to the Italian Consul.)

"We are proud to be the sons of that Italy whose Leader is Benito Mussolini. ... None will dare humiliate or check Italy when the ruler of her destiny is Benito Mussolini."

Pope's Connections and Influence

As a member of the Democratic National Committee and a close associate of Jim Farley, Generoso Pope has powerful political connections. His influence is largely due to his supposed ability to swing, through the influence of his publications, half a million Italian votes in the United States. His financial power is also great. His assets include the Colonial Sand and Stone Company, the largest construction material company in this country; he is its president. The Empire State Building, the Chrysler Building, the West Side Highway, Radio City and other vast construction projects have been built with Colonial materials.

Among Pope's friends is Paul P. Rao, prominent attorney, who on May 29, 1941, was appointed as Assistant U. S. Attorney-General, in charge of customs. Mr. Rao's niece is married to Generoso Pope's son, Anthony. Mr. Rao was formerly Vice-President of Arc Electrical Construction Company, Rao Associates, Inc., and Rao Construction Company, Inc. It is reported he had certain business dealings with Generoso Pope. A month previous to his being appointed Assistant Attorney-General, Mr. Rao wrote a letter to Jew-baiter Domenico Trombetta, which subsequently appeared in the fascist Il Grido della Stirpe, stating that "all Americans of Italian origin" should "follow the leadership of Mr. Generoso Pope." An interesting sidelight is the fact that Paul Rao's law firm -- Rao, Liggio and Cannella -- drew up the original incorporation papers for the A. V. Publishing Co., which is the corporate title of the Deutscher-Weckruf und Beobachter, official organ of the German-American Bund. The directors of the A. V. Publishing Co., were Fritz Kuhn, James Wheeler-Hill and William Luedtke.

It would be interesting to learn the reaction of Assistant Attorney-General Paul Rao to the recent letter of the Mazzini Society urging the Department of Justice to investigate the activities of his niece's father-in-law, Generoso Pope.

Catering to Generoso Pope

In spite of the numerous disclosures regarding Generoso Pope's fascist activities he is treated as a loyal and prominent American citizen. Mayor LaGuardia of New York City appointed Pope as an "outstanding citizen" to serve as a member of the Committee for "I Am An American" Day which was observed on May 18 by Presidential Proclamation. In the face of considerable opposition, Pope remains a member of one of New York City's thirteen draft appeal boards; he was appointed to this position by Mayor LaGuardia and his appointment was approved by Governor Lehman. As a member of the Electoral College of the United States, Mr. Pope represents the State of New York.

The Hour asks: why is Generoso Pope permitted to continue his anti-democratic work with impunity, and why do public officials pamper and cater to this avowed fascist?

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"AMERICA FOR AMERICANS"

The America First Committee is adopting the fascist slogan of "America For Americans." This slogan has been appearing consistently in the press of the German-American Bund, the Silver Shirts, the Christian Front and other U. S. Fifth Column groups. At the most recent America First meeting in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, "America For Americans" was the theme of the evening. When Congressman Dewey Short declared, "This country was founded by Americans and is for the benefit of 100% Americans -- not alien elements who are enemies of the Republic," the Coughlinite audience rose to its feet, wildly applauding.

Another orator received with great enthusiasm at the Bay Ridge meeting was Representative Hamilton Fish, who referred to the role of the "international bankers" in dragging the United States into the Second World War; the reference was greeted by the audience with cries of "The Jews! The Jews!" The Congressman smiled at this demonstration and continued, "We don't want any alien philosophies in this country. This is a Christian American nation, and we want to keep it both Christian and American. America for the Americans -- that should be the cry of the America First Committee."

It is fitting that the America First Committee, which has become a rallying point for anti-democratic forces should adopt as its official slogan the battle cry of American Fascism.

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COUGHLIN EULOGIZES NAZI LEADERS

Father Charles E. Coughlin no longer makes any attempt to conceal his warm regard for Nazism and the gangster leaders of the Third Reich. In the June 9 issue of *Social Justice*, the Royal Oak priest devotes an article to praising the Nazi bigwigs and to making an invidious comparison between them and U. S. statesmen.

The article, entitled "Study in Contrasts," opens with an attack on President Roosevelt. The degenerate nature of the attack is ill-concealed behind its pious wording: "The dignity of his office and his physical affliction invite respect and sympathy for our ailing President." In his following remarks, Father Coughlin says, in somewhat more open language: "Vice-President Wallace attempted to evade the draft in the last war"; "Messrs. Stimson and Knox are colonels of the swivel chair"; "Harold Ickes -- now a father for the second time -- will be able to face the powder -- baby powder -- and that is all"; and "Mr. Morgenthau, strong on getting other men to do the fighting, will do none himself."

Nazi Germany, the priest declares, offers a different picture:

"Then, the contrast --

"Hitler is often himself in the front ranks -- facing shot and shell.

"Goering is an able air commander, actually flying his own plane and participating in the war.

"And the 'sickly' Hess taught the war-makers in America that the German war-makers can fly their own Messerschmidts and bale out as any common soldier is expected to bale out.

"At least, the Germans are superior to our war-makers in that they actually participate in the war."